

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicants request that the Examiner consider the above claims, as amended, prior to an action on the merits. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 2, 5-7, 9, 14, 16, 18, 24 and 36-38 have been amended, and new claims 52-55 have been added.

If for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3244.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: *Dec. 19, 2003*

By:

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